



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee National
Forests
Conasauga Ranger District

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File Code: 1950
Date: February 23, 2018

Dear Forest User:

I have signed the Final Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Fightingtown Creek Project on the Conasauga Ranger District, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests, Georgia.

I have chosen Alternative 3, with some minor modifications, for implementation. This decision authorizes the following:

- 341 acres of commercial timber harvest to create young forest habitat;
- 54 acres of non-commercial treatment to create young forest habitat;
- 461 acres conserved as small blocks of old growth forest habitat;
- 9.6 miles of road maintenance, including road reconstruction on segments of this mileage;
- 3 miles of temporary access road construction;
- Seasonal closure of a portion of Forest Service Road 792 (Williamson Cove);
- Year-round closure (walk-in access only) of the remainder of FSR 792 and all of FSR 796 (McClure Creek);
- Removal of roadside overstory vegetation ('daylighting') along the year-round closure segments of FSR 792 and 796, planting a preferred seed mixture for development of a walk-in hunting area, and future maintenance of these areas by mowing, mastication, or replanting; and
- Reduction of road maintenance level on Forest Service Road 797 (Hickory Nut Road).

The DN discusses in detail my decision and rationale for reaching my decision. A copy of the DN and FONSI are enclosed.

The December 19, 2016 draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was updated to respond to public comments and the Final EA (released September 18, 2017) is available upon request or can be downloaded in PDF format from the Forest's internet website at:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=44961>.

This decision was subject to objection pursuant to 36 CFR 218, and a legal notice of the opportunity to object was published on September 18, 2017 in *The Daily Citizen* (Dalton, GA) and sent to those who provided comments during the project's development. One response was filed and processed during the 45-day objection period by the objection reviewing officer.

Thank you for your interest in the management of your National Forest.

Sincerely,


JEFF GARDNER
District Ranger

Enclosure: Fightingtown DN & FONSI



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